categories from the PDS, into actual practice, an alternate workable modality could be too determine the number, categories of persons which could be considered as ostensibly better off and clearly non-poor, for exclusion.

(iv) The Central Government should issue guidelines on the categories to be excluded.

The policy, however, varies from State to State at present.

Detention under Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commoditis Act, 1980

3452. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under the Preventoin of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in various parts of the country during the last two years and till date, State-wise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the present position in each of the above cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the accused persons are acquitted in such cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Details are given in the Annexed statement *(See* below).

(b) Details of detention and the present position in individual cases of detention are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Central Government has advised State Governments and UT Administrations to exercise the powers under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 with great care and caution so that acquittals do not take place on technical grounds.

Statement

Statewise number of persons ordered to be detained under the prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during 1992, 1993 and 1994 (till 31.7.94).

State	No. of detention		
	1992	1993	1994 (upto 31.7.94)
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	17	12
2. Assam	01	10	02
3. Gujarat	147	97	28
4. Karnataka	—	—	01
5. Madhya Pradesh	—	02	—
6. Maharashtra	—	—	01
7. Orissa	06	06	—
8. Tamilnadu	06	—	—
9. Uttar Pradesh	—	—	03

Remaining States/UTs have not reported any detention under the Act during this period.

Shortage of essential commodities in Madhya Pradesh

3453. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of essential commodities in the rural and backward areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Gvoernment of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government to enhance the supply of essential commodities in that State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,

CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALU DDIN AHMED): (a) The Central Government has not received any report regarding shortage of foodgrains from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last few months. Some shortage of kerosene was reported in certain areas/pockets of the State in recent months.

(b) and (c). State Government has requested for increase in allocation of foodgrains to cover additional areas having concentration of tribal population under the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS). Though there is no proposal at present to increase the area of coverage under RPDS in Madhya Pradesh, additional allocation of 7,660 tonnes each of rice and wheat per month has been made to Madhya Pradesh effective from July, 1994 to enable the State to make adequate allocations to the RPDS areas in the State. Sub-allocations to particular regions and districts within the State is a matter under the administrative jurisdiction of the State Government.

Proposal of Madhya Pradesh for buying mobile vans under RPDS

3454. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal for the purchase of mobile vans under the revamped Public Distribution System during 1993-94; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALU-DDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) A proposal seeking financial assistance for the purchase of 30 vans amounting to Rs.1.20 crores was received from Government of Madhya Pradesh during 1993-94. The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 80.00 lakhs for purchase of 20 vans, keeping in view the overall availability of funds and *inter-se* requirement of funds for all the States/UTs which had sought assistance under the scheme.

Commodities in Third Schedule of Weights and Measures Rules, 1977 reduced

3455. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the list from 38 commodities to only 14 items in the Third Schedule of the Weights and Measures Rules of 1977;

(b) whether it is a fact that tooth-paste and other items of common use are now beyond any control;

(c) what is the logic formaking value judgements on the goods to be deleted from the Third Schedule of the Weights and Measures Rules, 1977; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to review the list of 24 items removed from the Third Schedule of the said Rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALU-DDIN AHMED): (a) An amendment was made in the Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 to delete certain items from the Third Schedule of the Rules vide Notification GSR No. 591 dated 20th July, 1994. A list of the items deleted from the Third Schedule is given in the Statement. (*see* below)

(b) No, Sir. All pre-packed commodities intended for retail sale are